

**RANDOLPH J. TOWNSEND**

SENATOR  
Washoe No. 4



**COMMITTEES:**

*Member*

Energy, Infrastructure and Transportation  
Government Affairs  
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**State of Nevada  
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October 13, 2009

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

RE: Broadband Industry Practices (WC Docket No. 07-52)

I have served in the Nevada Legislature since 1983, 18 of those years as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor which establishes telecommunications policy in our State. Early in my tenure, I spearheaded legislation to give our regulatory Commission authority to deregulate discretionary and competitive telecommunications services. This initiative resulted in a Plan for Alternative Regulation (PAR) designed to reduce barriers to entry in the marketplace and allow more competition among local phone and cable television companies. Hearings I held in 1995 stimulated the Commission to adopt rules implementing PAR and fostering more competition.

In the 2003 Session, my Committee processed legislation relating to the regulation of telecommunication and broadband service. The bill made changes to the way incumbent local exchange carriers are regulated under a PAR, revised provisions for classification of certain telecommunication services, and authorized flexibility in the pricing and terms of certain telecommunication services. Additionally, the legislation prohibited the Commission from regulating broadband service under certain circumstances. In that same year, at the request of Michael K. Powell, then Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, I commenced serving on the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee. I mention my background only so you will understand I am intimately familiar with telecommunications issues.

I respectfully request that you tread cautiously as you consider net neutrality regulations as applied to the changing and innovative wireless communications industry.

The wireless communications industry is expanding, innovating, and changing every day. Regulation of these services, at this time, seems to be unnecessary and, at worst, may inhibit market- and research-driven changes and advances.

In Nevada, we are working hard to ensure businesses and consumers in all corners of our State have access to innovative, cutting-edge technologies. Regulations that would slow development or investment will stymie our efforts.

Regulation to solve problems that could happen should give all of us pause. If there is a problem, then we need a solution. However, please move cautiously when considering any regulation that could hamstring a growing and vibrant industry.

Thank you for your time and attention to this letter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Randolph Townsend". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Randolph Townsend  
Nevada State Senator